order being a state subject, the port authorities have taken up the matter with the Government of Maharashtra State.

Commercial Cargo Service between India-Bangladesh

739. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commercial cargo service is contemplated on the Brahamputra river between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been agreed to by both the Governments; and

(d) if so, when the service is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The commercial cargo service is already operating between Calcutta, Haldia, Karimganj & Pandu on the Indian side and Narayanganj, Khulna, Mongla and Sirajganj on the Bangladesh side. For this service, a Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh already exists, which has been extended recently for a further period of two years from 4.10.1999 to 3.10.2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Procurement of Ship Engines by Andaman Administration

740. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman Administration is investing Rs. 160 crores to buy engines to power its ships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any particular make of engine has been preferred; and

(d) if so, the name of the manufacturer and the reasons for selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Administration have

placed orders on various Indian Shipyards for acquisition of 18 medium sized vessels at a total expenditure of about Rs. 134 crores, which also includes the cost of engines.

(c) and (d) The shipyards, for technical and economic reasons and with the concurrence of A&N Administration, have chosen Yanmar engines for these vessels.

Nation-wide programme for upgradation of roads

741. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the nationwide programme for upgradation of roads along with target fixed, estimated involvement and source of fund;

(b) the sector-wise assistance committed by various international funding agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and B.O.T. system;

(c) whether such programmes envisage to link the North-East with rest of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the transnational Highway as declared by Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) National Highway Development Project comprises of improvement of highways connecting 4 metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta and East-West corridor from Silcher to Porbandar and North-South corridor from Kanyakumari to Srinagar to 4/6 lane facility. The plan will be completed in next 10 years by National Highways Authority of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 54,000 crores (at current prices)

(b) The details of assistance committed by World Bank, Asian Development Bank and OECF during 9th Five Year Plan is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The details of BOT projects awarded so far is given in Statement-II (*see* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The East-West corridor from Silcher to Porbandar would link North-East with rest of India.

(e) The North-South and East-West Corridors as declared by the Hon'ble Prime Minister are from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Porbandar respectively.